

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are currently pending in the application (claims 25-27 are withdrawn). Claims 1, 8, 16, 17, and 20 have been amended. Support for the claim amendments can be located at line 19 of page 30 to line 6 of page 32 of the specification of the present invention. Claim 19 has been cancelled.

On page 2 of the Office Action, claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, due to the claim's recitation of the term "character strings for displaying." According to the Examiner, the term renders the claim indefinite.

Applicants respectfully submit that the term is not indefinite. One of ordinary skill in the relevant art would readily appreciate the meaning of the term after being presented with Applicants' disclosure. Nevertheless, Applicants have amended the claim. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1, 4-8, 10-12, 14, 15, and 17-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,216,111 (Walker).

Walker discloses a configuration in which an audio notification can be provided indicating a select phone call. The user has to determine the response to the select phone call after picking up the receiver and starting the call.

Walker is directed to a system whereby a telemarketer may reward a customer during a telemarketing call. According to Walker, an invitation is communicated to a consumer regarding an opportunity to receive a sales presentation in exchange for a value. For example, an operator or a recording is utilized to initiate contact with a customer. The customer listens to the beginning of the sales presentation. When the customer answers his telephone, for example, a message says, "Hello, this is a call from (name of bank); if you'll listen to a 6-minute recorded presentation on credit card life insurance, we'll give you up to \$10 as an immediate credit on your bank credit card." See Walker, column 8, lines 46-56.

In the present invention, a receiving user can judge the select phone call information before picking up the receiver since it notifies the point information when calling. Also, the system of the present invention can automatically turn away the calling if the conditions regarding the point information are set in advance.

In the present invention, notification is made to a receiving terminal that a phone call is a point-carrying phone call. For example, using a caller ID service, the display device of the

receiving terminal 200 may indicate that a phone call is a point-carrying phone call. A configuration can also be implemented such that when Internet telephony is utilized, the fact that a phone call is a point-carrying phone call and information of the points to be added as a result of the phone call are transmitted and displayed at the display device of the receiving terminal.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 20, and 24 are patentable over Walker, as Walker fails to disclose, "select-call notification means for notifying a receiving terminal that a call from a calling terminal is a select phone call," as recited in independent claim 1, for example. As claim 19 has been cancelled, the rejection is moot with respect to claim 19. As the remaining dependent claims depend from respective independent claims, the remaining dependent claims are patentable over the reference for at least the reasons presented for the independent claims.

In contrast to the present invention in which the receiving terminal is notified before a user at the receiving terminal answers the telephone call (e.g., display indication at the receiving terminal), in Walker, the recipient must first answer the telephone call before the recipient receives the announcement regarding the sales presentation. In fact, Walker specifically states that, "when the customer answers his telephone he hears. . . ." See Walker, column 8, lines 48-53. Therefore, claims 1, 20, and 24 of the present invention are patentable over Walker, as Walker fails to disclose each and every element of the claims.

Claims 2 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,805,682 (Voit). As Voit does not cure the deficiencies of Walker, claims 2 and 3, via claim 1, are patentable over the references for at least the reasons presented for independent claim 1.

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,774,870 (Storey).

As Storey is simply directed to an integrated on-line frequency award program, Storey does not cure the deficiency of Walker. Therefore, claim 9, via claim 1, is patentable over the references for at least the reasons presented for claim 1.

At item 26 of page 11 of the Office Action, the Examiner alleged that Applicants failed to traverse the Examiner's assertion of Official Notice for claims 13 and 16 in the previous Amendment. Applicants do not admit the "common knowledge or well known in the art statement" of the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide evidentiary support for the statement regarding claims 13 and 16.

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

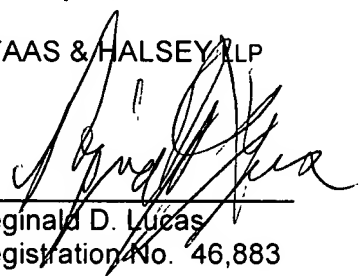
Respectfully submitted,

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